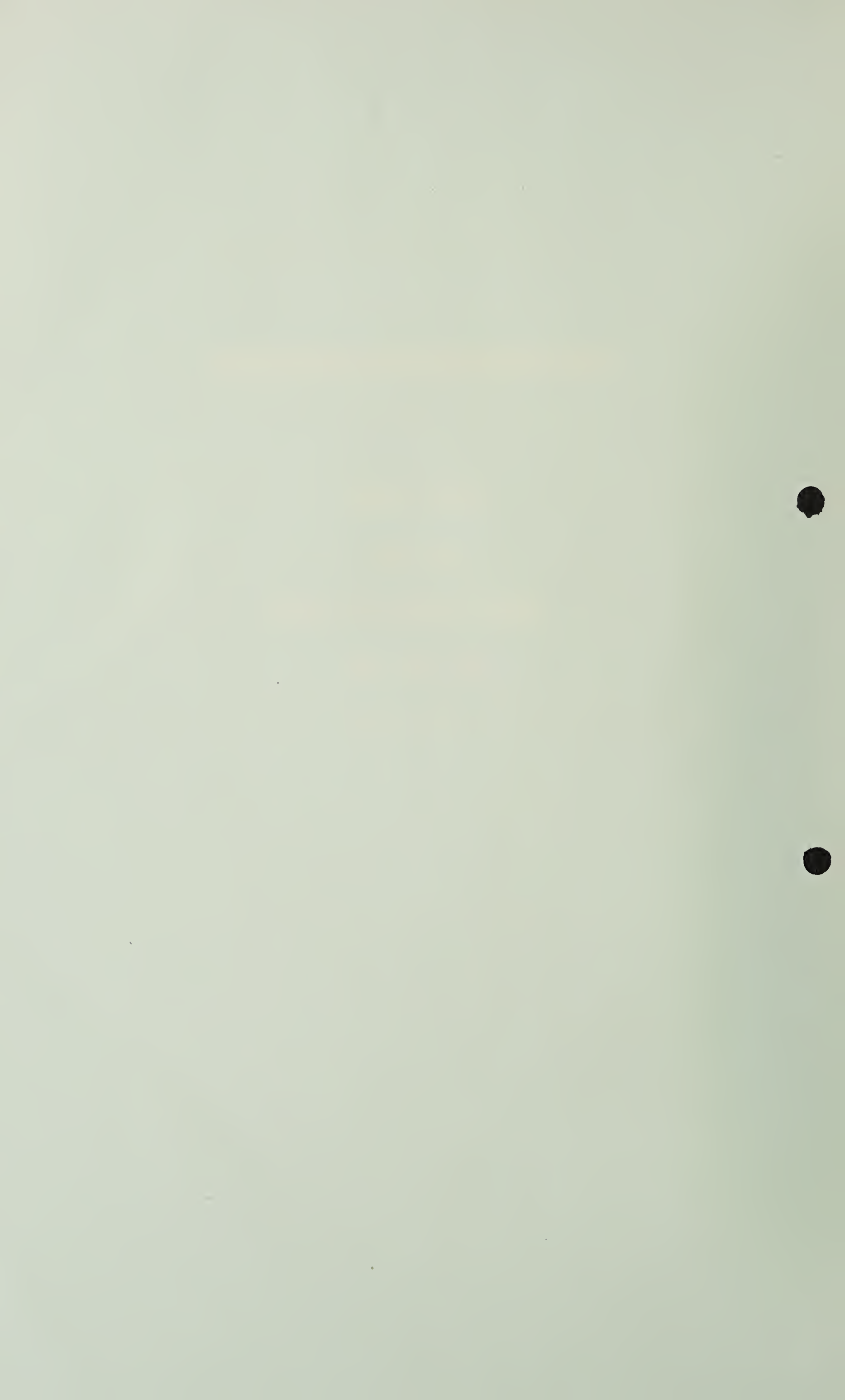


ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1 9 5 4.





ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954, in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 28/54 of the Ministry of Health.

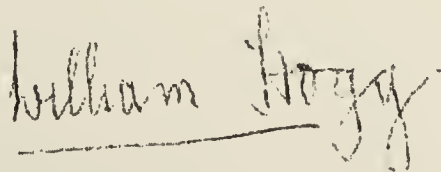
My thanks are due to Colonel N. Blake for information respecting the water supplies provided within the area by the Ross Water Undertaking.

Also, I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report, but in the discharge of my duties throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr.D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council; Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; Mr. E.O. Christopher, Rating Officer and Mr. W.R. Whitehouse, Resident Engineer for the Comprehensive Water Scheme.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me during the year.

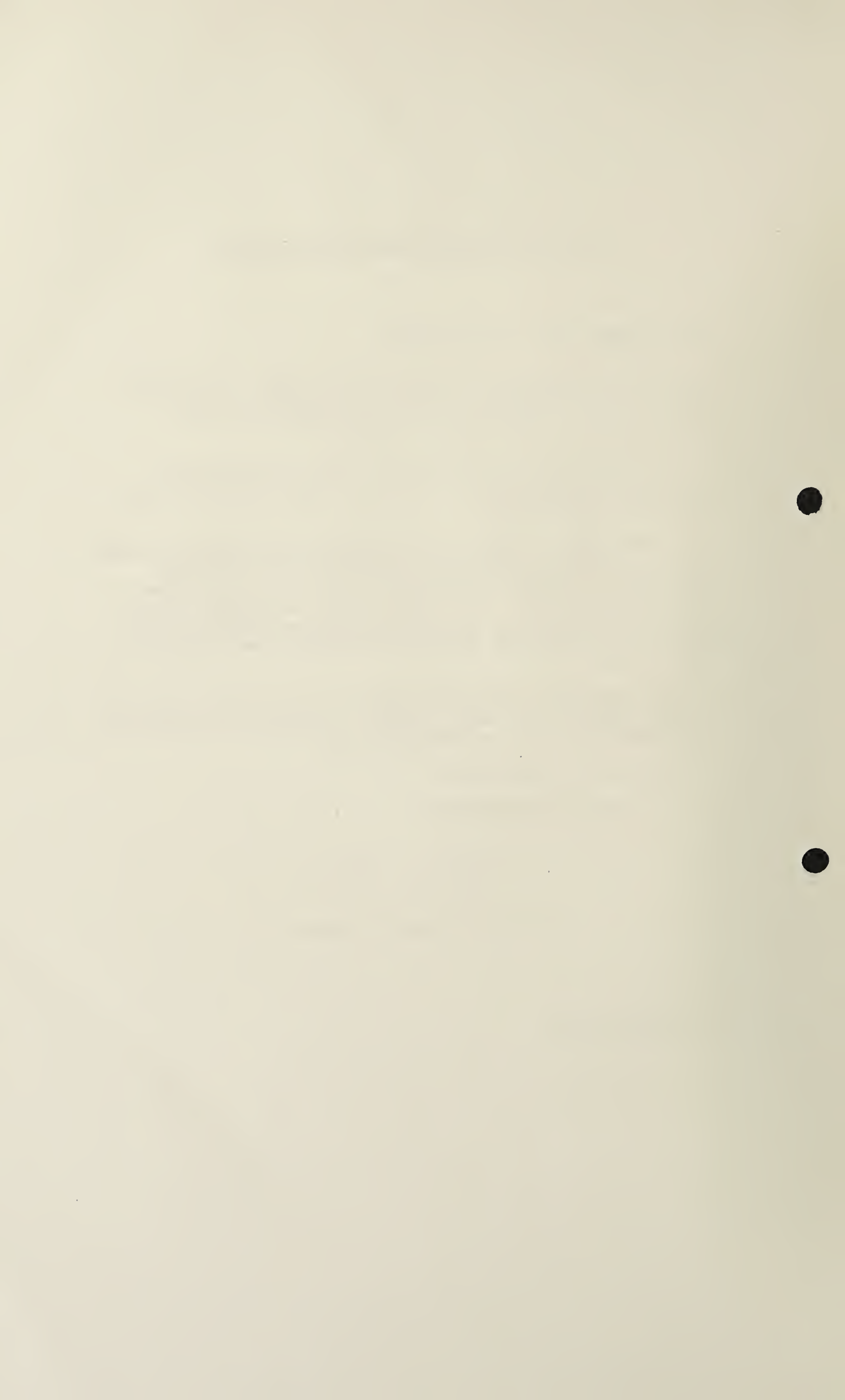
I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

17th August, 1955.



ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING
DESIGNATED OFFICER

+ Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

+ ∅ Mr. C.W.J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P. & Hy.

+ Certificate as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
∅ Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

CLERK TO THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

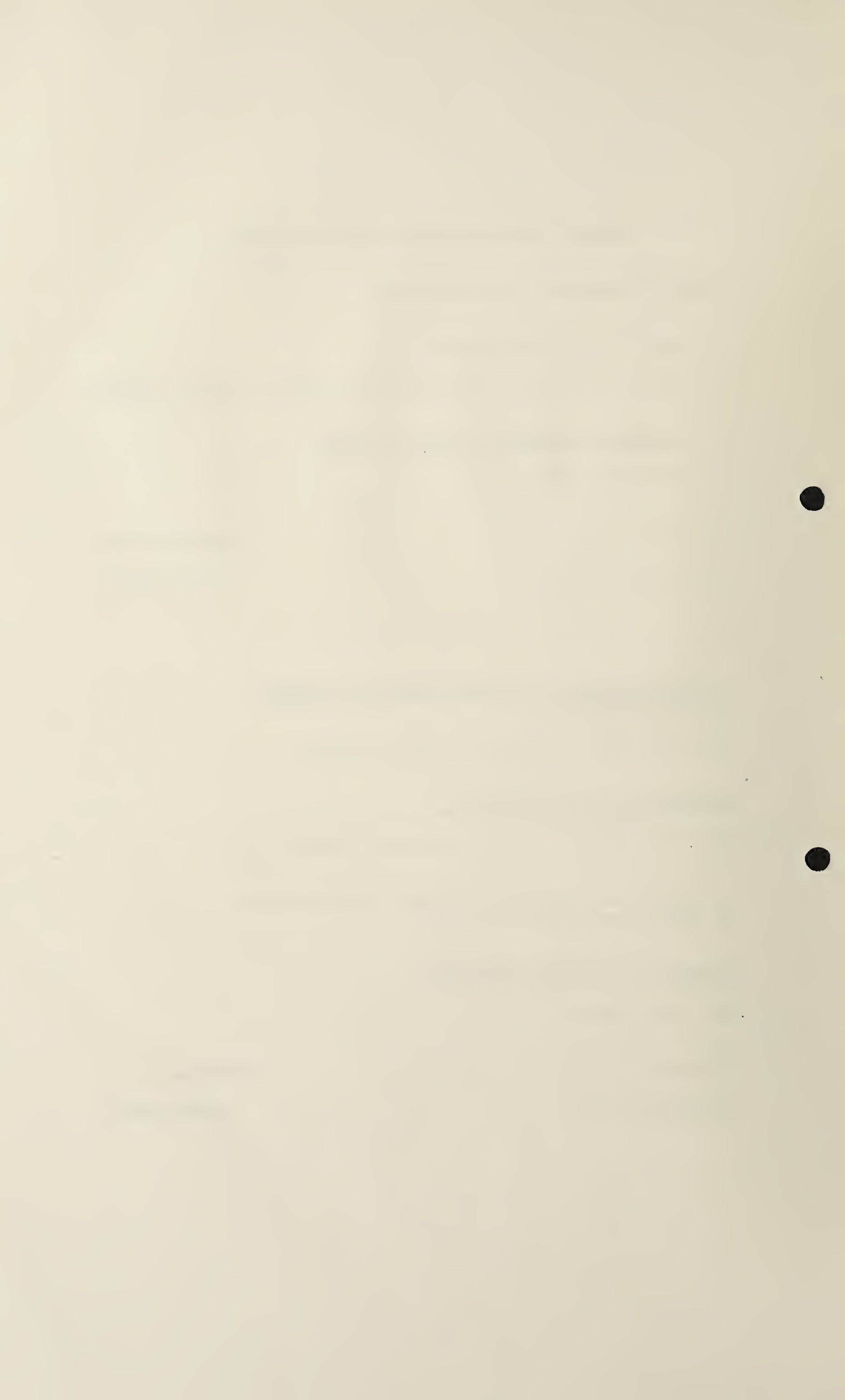
Mr. C.H. Scruby.

Telephone:-

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye.



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

Chairman - Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

Mrs. I. Harding.	... Aston Ingham.
Mr. L. Drayson Russill.	... Ballingham.
Mr. H.E. Sainsbury.	... Brampton Abbots.
Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.	... Bridstow.
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	... Brockhampton.
Mr. G.G. Bevan.	... Foy.
Brigadier R.P. Waller.	... Ganarew.
Mr. A.N. Cole.	... Garway.
Mr. A.C. Morris.	... Goodrich.
Mr. H.W. Badger.	... Harewood and Llandinabo.
Mrs. M.J. Williamson.	... Hentland.
Mr. R.D. Margrett.	... Hope Mansell.
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	... How Caple and Sollershope.
Mr. R.J. Jenkins.	... Kings Caple.
Mr. G. Savidge.	... Lea.
Mr. W. Morris.	... Linton.
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury.	... Linton.
Mr. J.F. Maclean, J.P.	... Llangarron.
Mr. F.G. Scudamore.	... Llangarron.
Mr. J.R. Ravenhill.	... Llanrothal.
Mr. H.A. Gundy.	... Llanwarne.
Mr. G.W. Banfield.	... Marstow.
Mr. S.R. Garner.	... Pencoyd.
Mr. H.C. Teague.	... Peterstow.
Mr. H.T. Allen.	... Ross Rural.
Mr. A.C. Netting.	... Ross Rural
Mr. J. Bowen.	... St. Weonards.
Mr. E.P.C. Whittall.	... Sellack.
Mr. T.W. Dew.	... Tretire and Michaelchurch.
Mr. A.T. Powell.	... Upton Bishop
Mr. A.E. Thomson.	... Upton Bishop.
Mr. W. Chinn.	... Walford.
Mrs. A.E. Hill.	... Walford.
Mr. A.T. Richards.	... Welsh Bicknor.
Mr. H.R. Biggs.	... Welsh Newton.
Mr. S.W. Sharpley.	... Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. R.F.N. Aldrich-Blake.	... Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. H.S. Cumbley.	... Whitchurch.
Mr. J. King.	... Whitchurch.
Mr. R.F. Cotton.	... Yatton.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the south of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye. The area is entirely rural in character and the scenery of the Wye Valley attracts visitors. Limestone quarries are worked at Whitchurch and Linton.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

Area in acres.	...	72,105
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population.	..	11,890
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.54)	...	3,601
Rateable Value.	...	£44,960
Sum represented by a penny rate.	...	£177
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude).	...	14.1
Corrected live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	16.2
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	...	40.0
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude).	...	10.6
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	...	8.6
Area Comparability Factor (Births).	...	1.15
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths).	...	0.81

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births.</u>
Heading No.30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.	...	35.7
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	..	31.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	...	90.9

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,890. The natural increase in population (the excess of live births over deaths is 42.

This population is contained in 3601 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.3. The density of dwellings for the District is 0.049 dwellings per acre.

The largest parish is Llangarron with 5411 acres, whilst the smallest is Llandinabo with 500 acres. There are 28 parishes each exceeding 1000 acres. The parish having the largest population is Walford.

Births.

The number of live births registered as having occurred within the Rural District during the year is 168 (92 male and 76 female), and the crude live birth rate is 14.1 per 1000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor is 1.15 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 16.2 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 15.2 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.21.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 11 (6 male and 5 female). The illegitimate live births forms 6.5% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 15.2 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths.

Seven stillbirths occurred (3 male and 4 female), and the still-birth rate is, therefore, 40.0 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the corrected still birth rate for the Rural District is 0.58 per 1000 population. The England and Wales stillbirth rate for the year is 24.0 per 1000 total live and still births.

Deaths.

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 126 (68 male and 58 female). The total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.17.

The crude death rate for the Rural District for the year is 10.6 per 1000 population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.81, the corrected death rate is 8.6 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year is 11.3 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death
according to Sex and Mortality Rates.

List No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 population.
9.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	-	2	0.14
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	3	3	0.20
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	0.14
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.07
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	7	13	0.89
16.	Diabetes.	1	-	1	0.07
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	11	11	22	1.50
18.	Coronary disease.	6	4	10	0.68
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	2	3	0.20
20.	Other heart disease.	14	13	27	1.84
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	3	4	0.27
22.	Influenza.	1	-	1	0.07
23.	Pneumonia.	3	4	7	0.48
24.	Bronchitis.	1	1	2	0.14
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1	0.07
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2	0.14
31.	Congenital malformations.	2	1	3	0.20
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	9	7	16	1.09
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1	0.07
34.	All other accidents.	3	1	4	0.27
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	1	-	1	0.07
All Causes.		68	58	126	8.60

Analysis of deaths by cause shows that the most frequent causes are heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 40 deaths. The death rate calculated from these causes is 2.72 per 1000 population (corrected).

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 22 deaths (11 male and 11 female), and the corrected death rate from this cause is 1.50 per 1000 population.

Cancer Deaths.

This year 19 deaths were attributed to cancer of all types (8 male and 11 female), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.29 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality.

The number of babies who died under the age of one year is 6 (4 male and 2 female). The infant mortality rate is 35.7 per 1000 live births; this rate for England and Wales is 25.5 per 1000 live births.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

All infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Seven deaths were attributed to pneumonia. This was the only acute notifiable disease causing death. The corrected death rate from acute notifiable diseases is 0.48 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis Deaths.

Two deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.14 per 1000 population and the tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales is 0.179 per 1000 population.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREAPublic Health Laboratory.

The facilities available to the District at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, remained unchanged.

The following table gives the number of investigations undertaken on behalf of the Department: during the year:-

Swabs	...	13
Sputum	...	3
Preserved Cream	...	4
Ice Cream	...	21
Milk for tuberculosis .		5
Milk (Br. abortus)	...	5
Milk (methy	...	6
blue test)		
Water (Bacterio.	...	83
logical)		

In addition, 5 samples of water were submitted to the Public Analyst, Ellis & Turner, for chemical examination.

Public Mortuary.

The Council has facilities for reception of bodies from the Rural District at the Public Mortuary, Homs Road, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 6 bodies were removed from the Rural District to the Public Mortuary.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals situated within the District, which is served by hospitals at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth.

Ambulances.

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Monmouth and Gloucester, for use of persons residing within the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50.

No burials were carried out by the Council under this section during the year.

Care of the Aged and Infirm - National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

Six investigations were made under this Section; in all cases formal action was unnecessary. In two cases admission to hospital was secured, and two others died before a hospital bed was obtained. In two cases no action was necessary.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The District is formed of Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System, with an outcrop of limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the parishes of Walford and Whitchurch, along the southern boundary of the District, there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone.

The Old Red Sandstone is represented chiefly by red and green sandstones and marl with outcrops of Old Red Conglomerate

Water Supplies.

In the area immediately surrounding the Urban District, the mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of wholesome water at adequate pressure in the parish of Ross Rural, and in parts of the parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the Ross Water Undertaking's mains in these parishes are:-

Bridstow	...	170
Ross Rural	...	113
Walford	...	41
Weston-under-Penyard	...	5

All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings with the exception of 7 dwellings in Bridstow supplied by standpipes.

The water of the Ross Water Undertaking is obtained from boreholes at Alton Court Works. The water is of good potable quality although somewhat hard. No preliminary treatment, other than chlorination, is provided. No extensions to the Ross Water Undertaking's mains were carried out in the District during the year.

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood. These give a constant supply of potable water.

Brampton Abbots Supply.

Brampton Abbots is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. This scheme supplies 55 dwellings by services from the mains. The Reservoir capacity is 25,000 gallons in two reservoirs.

Garway Supply.

This scheme makes use of a spring on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to variation according to rainfall, but is adequate for present demand. The water is put into supply without treatment. The number of dwellings supplied by services is 83 and 3 are supplied by standpipes.

Llangarron Supply.

This supplies part of Llangarron parish and utilises spring water pumped to the reservoir. The water is passed into supply without treatment, and is sufficient for present demands. The scheme supplies 152 dwellings by service, and 8 dwellings are supplied by standpipes.

The power for the pump is furnished by a water wheel, with a diesel set as a reserve. Flooding of the river is liable to interfere with this supply.

Llancloudy Supply.

This is a separate scheme serving the Llancloudy area of Llangarron parish. Spring water is collected and piped to 21 dwellings. There is one standpipe on this supply. Chlorination treatment is provided.

Harewood End Supply.

This small water scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. The original works had a shallow well and pump driven by water wheel and auxiliary engine but to meet increased demand a lined borehole was constructed 6" diameter to a depth of 180 feet, and a submerged electric pump provided. The original features of the scheme are retained for emergency use. The scheme supplies 30 dwellings.

Other Water Supplies.

A small water scheme at Yatton supplies 4 Council houses; and 42 Council houses at Coughton are supplied from a small scheme.

The number of dwellings in the District supplied from public water mains is 727.

In addition to piped supplies provided by the Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals.

The remaining dwellings are supplied from wells, and a number depend upon the collection of rainwater. The wells are usually of the shallow type and cannot be regarded as satisfactory sources of potable water.

During the year further progress was made with respect to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme. I am indebted to Mr. R. Whitehouse, Resident Engineer, for the following account of the work carried out during the year.

"During 1954 the first two Contracts of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, comprising the sinking, lining, and carrying out of a pumping test thereon, of the first of two 24" boreholes at Castlebrook designated Contract No.1, and the construction of a pumping station at Castlebrook, a 250,000 gallon reservoir at Deepdean and the laying of some 22,000 lineal yards of water mains serving the low level areas of Walford Parish and Goodrich, Whitchurch and Ganarew Parished and called Contract No.2, were undertaken.

The Interim Scheme to supply St. Weonards and Llanwarne Parishes with a supply of water pending the partial completion of the Comprehensive Water Scheme was also let as a Contract, comprising Intake Works, Pumping Station and Pumping Main and about 6,000 yards of distribution mains which will form part of the Comprehensive Scheme as it develops.

Contract No.1 was commenced on 1st February 1954 and by 31st December 1954 was virtually completed in that the borehole had been sunk, lined and tested for normal yeild and to capacity, and samples of the water taken to provide the requisite information for the detailed design of any treatment works necessary and to ensure an adequate supply being available for the main pumping plant on which the whole scheme will depend.

Contract No.2 was commenced on the 1st April 1954 and by the end of that year the 12" dia. pumping main - 1460 yards long - to Deepdean Reservoir was completed. In addition, 5,300 lineal yards of the 10" diameter trunk main from Castlebrook had been laid of which 3416 yards had been tested andproved satisfactory. Work was also proceeding on the 9" diameter trunk main in the Goodrich area.

With reference to the St. Weonards and Llanwarne Interim Scheme, practically the whole of the mainlaying was completed by the end of 1954 and in addition some 750 lineal yards of a 1400 yard extension in 3" diameter pipes to Llandinabo was constructed.

Work is proceeding on Contract No.2 and on the Interim Scheme and on Contract No.1 the Contractors are clearing away their temporary plant prior to vacating the site."

The large number of separate water supplies render control of potable water difficult. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 83, and the number of samples submitted for chemical examination was 5. Of these samples submitted for examination, 19 showed the water not to be of potable quality.

Regular inspections and proper maintenance of Local Authority Schemes were carried out during the year. No evidence was found of any drinking water having a significant solvent action upon metals.

The public well at Bromsash (Linton parish) for the greater part of the year remained dry and water was provided by carriage to storage tanks.

In Walford, the public well known as Beech Well, failed in October and water had to be transported to provide domestic supplies. Work was carried out on the well and eventually the supply was restored.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are short public sewers within the parishes of Lea, Walford, Upton Bishop, Goodrich and Ross Rural. No extensions of public sewers were made during the year.

New sewage disposal works were constructed in connection with sites for new Council houses at Hentland. This installation will treat the effluent from 16 new dwellings.

New sewage disposal works were provided to treat sewage of the Hildersley public sewer. The works consist of new circular biological filter, 20' diameter, with dosing apparatus powered by an automatic electric pump, new settlement tank and humus tanks and an effluent drain.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 214 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 81 and 27 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 16. It was found necessary to make 247 inspections in connection with drainage.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks other than those on the Council's property.

Rivers and Streams.

No action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year. The absence of trade effluents and the regular collection of domestic refuse have promoted cleanliness of the rivers and streams in the Rural District.

Closet Accommodation.

The commonest type of closet in use in the District is the pail closet, and it is estimated that 60% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 10% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 30% have the use of water closets. The reason for the continued wide use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies.

During the year 12 privies and 25 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 4 privies were converted to pail closets. Apart from conversions, 60 new water closets were provided during the year.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets other than those on the Council's property. No public conveniences are provided by the Council, but a need of such provision in the Whitchurch area exists. This parish has a significant influx of day visitors during the holiday season.

Public Cleansing.

Throughout the year, a collection of domestic refuse was made in all parts of the District by the Rural District Council. The collection is carried out by a motor vehicle, provided with adjustable covers, and is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. With a single vehicle it has not been found possible to make a collection more frequently than once a month from all accessible houses (about 80% of inhabited houses).

The domestic refuse is tipped on two sites, one situated at Deepdean, Walford parish, and the other at Tre-essey in Llangarron parish. The use of two tips reduces mileage. During the year, the vehicle with its crew of two men travelled 11,000 miles conveying 550 loads. The average mileage per load was 20 miles. The domestic refuse collected has a low organic content being chiefly composed of bottles, tins and other incombustible articles. The risk of spontaneous combustion on the tips is, therefore, low. The condition of the tips was satisfactory throughout the year.

The Council has no duties in connection with street cleaning, and there are no public baths or washhouses within the area. The settlement tanks and filters at the Council's housing sites are cleansed twice yearly by Contractors.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the District.

Shops and Offices.

The number of shops and offices within the District is small, and no action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with shops. The number of inspections of shops was 56.

Camping Sites.

The number of sites used for camping in the area during the year was 24; of these 18 are licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time was 150. All sites were inspected during the season, 103 inspections being made.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No dwellings were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfection was required.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year, I came to the conclusion that the sanitary inspection of the Rural District was not entirely adequate. Whilst I considered the appointment of an additional sanitary inspector would overcome this deficiency, the Council considered that this was not necessary.

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1954, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Accumulations	...	...	...	27
Animals	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	35
Camping Sites	...	...	...	47
Caravans	...	...	...	56
Dairies	...	...	...	6
Drainage	...	...	...	247
Drain Tests	...	...	...	214
Filthy and Verminous Premises	..	...		13
Factories (without mechanical power)	..			51
Factories (with mechanical power)	...			50
Food Handling Byelaws	...	...	...	72
Food Premises	...	...	...	60
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925).				245
Housing (Other)	...	...	...	498
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...		14

Inspections (continued).

Ice Cream (Registered Premises.)	...	...	...	40
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	29
Knackers' Yards.	...	...	...	6
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	...	...	12
Offensive Smells.	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Stores.	...	...	...	1
Schools.	...	...	...	10
Sewage Disposal Works.	...	...	...	99
Sewers.	...	...	...	46
Shops.	...	...	...	56
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	3
Unsound Food.	...	...	...	12
Water Supply.	...	...	...	316
Work Places.	...	...	...	186

Notices Issued.

Informal.	...	...	...	42
Statutory re housing.	...	...	...	26
Statutory under other Acts.	...	...	...	6

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Accumulations removed.	...	...	...	28
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed.	...	...	...	143
Ditches cleared.	...	...	...	2
Drains and Gullies cleared.	...	...	...	22
Drains repaired.	...	...	...	9
Drains reconstructed.	...	...	...	2
New drains provided.	...	...	...	96
Defective floors repaired.	...	...	...	27
Defective roofs repaired.	...	...	...	44
Defective eaves gutters repaired.	...	...	...	17
Defective brickwork repaired.	...	...	...	18
Defective Coppers remedied.	...	...	...	7
Disinfections after infectious Disease.	...	...	...	4
Disinfestations.	...	...	...	2
Defective windows repaired.	...	...	...	27
Defective chimneys repaired.	...	...	...	15
Dampness of floors and walls remedied.	...	...	...	32
Cisterns cleansed or repaired.	...	...	...	9
Closets repaired.	...	...	...	25
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed.	...	...	...	1
New Gullies provided.	...	...	...	27
Inspection chambers repaired.	...	...	...	5
Old drains sealed.	...	...	...	5
Paving repaired.	...	...	...	4
Privies converted to Water Closets...	...	...	...	15
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired.	...	...	...	38
Staircases repaired.	...	...	...	21
New sinks provided.	...	...	...	36
Soil pipes repaired.	...	...	...	6
Sanitary Fittings provided.	...	...	...	51
Stoves repaired.	...	...	...	11
Ventilation improved.	...	...	...	23
Wells cleansed or repaired.	...	...	...	10
Water supplies provided.	...	...	...	29
Miscellaneous Defects remedied.	...	...	...	116

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

There are 41 factories within the area, registered with the Local Authority; 22 of these being factories with mechanical power. The number of inspections made was 101.

Factory Form 572 (revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954, for the Rural District of Ross and Whitchurch in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	19	51	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	22	50	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' premises).	58	247	Nil	Nil
Total	99	348	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness.	2	1	-	-	-

There are no outworkers on the Register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a part-time Pests Control Officer in conjunction with the Hereford Rural and Ledbury Rural District Council. His work in this area during 1954 is recorded by the following table:-

	Prem- ises in- spected.	No. of inspec- tions	Total Infes- tations.	RATS		No. of Prop- erties treated	Stat- utory Not- ices.
				Major	Minor		
Local Authorities' Properties.	6	24	12	-	12	12	-
Dwelling Houses.	90	113	23	-	21	-	-
Agricultural Properties.	146	203	53	9	44	-	-
All other (including business) Premises.	14	19	5	-	5	-	-
Total	256	359	93	9	82	12	-

Knackers' Yards.

There are two Knackers' yards within the Rural District. Six inspections were made during the year. Conditions were not entirely satisfactory and the Council has under consideration the need to adopt bye-laws regulating these premises.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued satisfactorily, as 47 new houses were completed and occupied, whilst a further 13 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

The completed dwellings were situated at Bridstow (8), Lea (22), Hentland (5) and Llanwarne (12). These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 281, located according to parish as shown in the following table:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Brampton Abbotts	14	-
Bridstow	42	-
Brockhampton	14	-
Garway	12	-
Hentland	13	11
How Caple	4	-
Kings Caple	8	-
Lea	38	2
Linton	6	-
Llangarron	26	-
Llanwarne	12	-
Marstow	8	-
Peterstow	3	-
Ross Rural	2	-
Upton Bishop	4	-
Walford	52	-
Welsh Newton	1	-
Weston-under-Penyard	4	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Yatton	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	281	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In addition, to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed 13 dwellings, whilst 8 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Overcrowding.

A small but significant improvement in overcrowding was achieved during the year. At the end of the year 19 houses were known to be overcrowded and three cases were found during the year. Eight cases were relieved during the year, and at the end of the year 14 overcrowded dwellings were known to the Department.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	323
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	346

2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	222
	(b) Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	245
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	37
4.	Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	71

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	33
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...	Nil
	(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.		
	(i) By Owners	...	Nil
	(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	6
	(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
	(i) By Owners.	...	6
	(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
3.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of of which Demolition Orders were made.	...	18
	(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	18

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil
 - (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ... Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part Iv - Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... 14
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein. ... 15
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein. ... 97
- (d) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... 3
- (e) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 8
- (f) Number of persons concerned in (e) above. ... 52
- (g) Dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after steps by Local Authority for abatement. ... Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

- Section 2. The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation. ... Nil
- Section 4. (a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. ... 1
- (b) The number of dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. ... Nil
- Section 15. (a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses and other buildings. ... Nil
- (b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority. ... 1
- Section 20. (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings. ... 1
- (b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. ... 23

REVISED STATEMENT OF HOUSING SURVEY AS AT
31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

Parish.	Group 1.	Group 2.	Groups 3/4.	Group 5.	Total.
Aston Ingham.	10	46	36	-	92
Ballingham.	1	8	20	4	33
Brampton Abbotts.	18	6	33	1	58
Bridstow.	63	34	63	7	167
Brockhampton.	32	7	21	-	60
Foy.	9	12	33	-	54
Ganarew.	1	7	20	1	29
Garway.	25	25	39	-	89
Goodrich.	4	17	75	5	101
Harewood.	-	2	9	-	11
Hentland.	31	27	54	2	114
Hope Mansel.	1	3	38	-	42
How Caple.	20	8	11	-	39
Kings Caple.	14	20	24	6	64
Lea.	47	14	39	-	100
Linton.	10	25	152	1	188
Llandinabo.	7	1	4	-	12
Llangarron.	38	41	118	11	208
Llanrothal.	1	8	22	-	31
Llanwarne.	14	16	40	8	78
Marstow.	17	13	60	2	92
Pencoyd.	8	9	21	-	38
Peterstow.	8	15	33	3	59
Ross Rural.	25	25	36	-	86
St. Weonards.	10	28	62	2	102
Sellack.	1	16	48	3	68
Sollershope.	5	1	11	2	19
Tretire.	3	6	14	-	23
Upton Bishop.	24	17	79	1	121
Walford.	74	41	189	6	310
Welsh Bicknor.	1	1	11	2	15
Welsh Newton.	3	8	35	2	48
Weston.	13	18	132	5	168
Whitchurch.	31	46	151	13	241
Yatton.	10	1	18	3	32
Totals.	579 (19.4%)	572 (19.1%)	1,751 (58.5%)	90 (3.0%)	2,992 (100.0%)

Group 1. Houses fit in all respects for habitation.
Group 2. Houses requiring minor repairs and/or alterations.
Groups 3/4. Houses requiring major repairs and/or alterations.
Group 3. Houses unfit for human habitation.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year was five. The number of dairy inspections made was six.

There are no pasteurizing or milk sterilising plants situated within the Rural District. Four distributors' licences for the sale of tuberculin tested Milk, and two for the sale of tuberculin tested (Pasteurized) Milk were granted by the Council during the year.

Five samples of milk were sent for biological examination for tuberculosis and Br. abortus infection and six samples were sent for methylene blue test. All samples submitted for biological test were found to be satisfactory. Two samples failed to satisfy the methylene blue test.

There was no evidence during the year that milk consumed in the area had caused any acute disease in man.

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of Ice Cream was 2, and the number registered for the storage and sale was 28. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 40. Conditions were satisfactory generally. There is no manufacture of heat-treated ice cream carried on in the Rural District. Both manufacturers use a cold mix.

The number of samples of this food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year was 21; 16 of these were classified as provisional grade 1, four as provisional grade 2 and only one was classified as provisional grade 3. This is fairly satisfactory and shows some improvement on the results of the previous years. There was no reason to suspect this food of causing acute disease in the population.

Water Cress.

This food grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area and the sale of water cress during the year is small. No illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish appears to be small, and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food. There are no fishmongers in the Rural District; supplies being obtained from adjacent towns.

Meat.

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the area. All meat is obtained by traders from abattoirs of adjacent Districts.

During the year, the Council issued 22 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

<u>Carcases inspected and condemned</u>					
	Cattle excluding Cows.			Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis...	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis..	-	-	-	-	-

There are seven bakeries, one factory for preserved meat, and one factory for the manufacture of soft drinks registered with the Council under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1936. The number of inspections of registered premises during the year was 45.

Conditions in one establishment registered under this section were found to be not entirely satisfactory and the occupier was summoned to appear before the Council to show cause why his registration should not be cancelled. On the occupier giving certain assurances, the Council decided not to cancel the registration. I am glad to report that this experience has produced an improvement in the premises and in the methods used.

Unsound Food.

The following food was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
1 x 7 oz. tin	Brawn.	Decomposition.
1 x 20 oz. can	Cherries.	Mould.
1 x $1\frac{3}{4}$ pint tin	Condensed Milk.	Rust and mould.
1 x $\frac{3}{4}$ pint tin	Evaporated Milk.	Dehydration and mould.
1 x 20 oz. can	Grape Fruit.	Mould.
3 x 7 oz. tins	Luncheon Meat.	Decomposition.
1 x 6 lbs. can.	Ox Tongue.	Decomposition.
1 x 28 oz. tin	Pineapple.	Dehydration and mould.
3 x 7 lbs.	Salmon.	Decomposition.
1 x 1 lb. can	White Grapes.	Rust and mould.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is buried on the refuse tips under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Byelaws as to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in Open Air.

There are no markets held within the Rural District, and the sale of food from stalls is very limited. Since the adoption of the Byelaws more attention has been given to vendors' delivery vans and vehicles. During the year 72 inspections were made under the Byelaws.

Food Poisoning.

No notification of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning were received during the year.

Anthrax Order 1938.

No notifications of Anthrax occurring in animals were received during the year.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

On comparison with the previous year, the incidence of acute notifiable disease showed a considerable fall. Altogether 63 notifications were received during the year, and the Rural District was free from diphtheria, meningococcal infection and enteric fevers. In 1953 the number of notifications of acute infectious disease received was 482.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	1	2	4
Whooping Cough.	16	2	2	4	24
Measles.	-	-	27	2	29
Pneumonia.	3	-	-	2	5
Acute Poliomyelitis. (Paralytic).	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	21	2	30	10	63

Measles.

As in 1953, measles was again the most prevalent of the acute notifiable diseases in the District. The disease disappeared from the District during the third quarter of the previous year and did not reappear until the third quarter of 1954. The number of cases notified was 29, of these 27 were received during the third quarter. The incidence rate was 2.4 per 1000 population. Seventeen separate dwellings were involved, seven of these each accounting for two or more cases. Ten patients gave a clear history of contact with a previous case. The outbreak was almost entirely limited to the adjoining parishes of Walford (20 cases) and Hope Mansell (7 cases).

Whooping Cough.

Cases of whooping cough continued to occur during the year. The total number of notifications was 24, and 16 of these were received during the first quarter. All patients except 2 were under the age of 10 years. The incidence rate is 2.0 per 1000 population. There were no deaths. Altogether 15 houses were involved, eleven of these each accounting for a single case. There was no localisation in respect of the cases.

Scarlet Fever.

Only four notifications of scarlet fever were received during the year. The incidence rate was 0.83 per 1000 population.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

It was fortunate that only one case of acute poliomyelitis was notified. This was a paralytic case but I am glad to report that the disease was mild.

Pneumonia.

Only five notifications of pneumonia were received although seven deaths were attributed to this disease. The notification of pneumonia does not appear to be very efficient and local morbidity and mortality rates do not give an accurate measurement of the incidence or mortality of the disease.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain
Age Groups.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Age N.K.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	3	4	8	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles.	1	3	4	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia.	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
All Diseases.	4	9	12	30	2	2	2	1	-	-	1

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 88 cases of tuberculosis on the register (63 respiratory and 25 non-respiratory). During the year 17 cases were added (12 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory); of these 8 were new cases of respiratory disease and 3 were new cases of non-respiratory disease. The number of cases removed from the register during the year was 9 (7 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 96 cases remained on the register (70 respiratory and 26 non-respiratory). There were two male deaths attributed to respiratory disease, giving a corrected death rate from tuberculosis of 0.14 per 1000 population. Two respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case were regarded as having recovered.

New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Age Groups.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45+	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
55+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	4	4	1	2	2	-	-	-

The incidence rate for all forms of tuberculosis for the year under review is 0.93 per 1000 estimated population.

